GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:74
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
WORKING OF PASSPORT OFFICES
Barman Shri Hiten;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe shortage of staff in various passport offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, RPO-wise;

(c) the steps taken in this regard;

(d) the number of pending passport applications, RPO-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open more RPOs, particularly in North Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether hardships are being faced by people to obtain passports;

(i) if so, the details in this regard;

(j) whether the CBI has filed chargesheet against touts operating in passport offices in Delhi; and

(k) if so, the measures taken to keep a check on their activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (k)- A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. STATEMENT REFERRED IN PARTS (a) to (k) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 74 TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.02.2006 REGARDING `WORKING OF PASSPORT OFFICES`.

(a) Yes, Sir,

(b)

Name of Passport Office	Staff shortage
Ahmedabad	58
Bangalore	14
RPO Bhopal	13
Bhubaneshwar	1
Chandigarh	34
Chennai	5
Delhi	9
Ghaziabad	16
Guwahati	6
Hyderabad	61
Jaipur	6
Jalandhar	40
Kolkata	16
Lucknow	8
Nagpur	9
Panaji	1
Patna	13
Pune	14
Ranchi	2

Srinagar 8
Tiruchi 28
Vishakhapatnam 24

(c) The Government has been taking steps to fill up the existing vacancies at the Passport Offices. The Staff Selection Commission has recently made available dossiers of 57 Lower Division clerks (LDCs). Offers of appointment have issued to 55 of the available candidates , the remaining two were found unfit. Of these 55, 15 have already joined in various Passport Offices. The Department of Personnel and Training has also been requested for no objection to fill the remaining vacancies in LDC grade. The Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has recently carried out a study of all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) and their final report on augmentation of staff has been received.

(d) The details are set out in annexure (A).

(e, f & g) The Government have decided, in principle, to open new passport offices in Dehradun, Simla and Raipur. However, it has not been possible so far to open passport offices elsewhere, including in North Bengal, for a variety of reasons, in particular, manpower constraints.

(h & i) Hardship faced by applicants in respect of issue of passports are due to following reasons: -

1. Shortage of passport booklets.

2. Delayed receipt of police verification report in Passport Offices.

3. Delayed Police verification report due to frequent change inn residence of the applicants.

4. Delay in receipt of applications forms from District Passport Cells.

5. Wrong information/documents given by applicant.

6. Substantial increase in number of applications received in Passport Offices.

7. Shortage of staff in Passport Offices.

(j) The CBI has registered six cases against private persons, including officials of RPO, Delhi, from the year 2004 till date. Out of these six cases, as per information available with this Ministry, four cases are still under investigation by the CBI. The Ministry has accorded sanction for prosecution to the CBI in one case, as regards the last case, a CBI report is under examination in the Ministry prior to according sanction fro prosecution.

(k) The problem of touts is kept under check in passport offices with the help of the local police authorities. As a first step, closed circuit camera televisions (CCTVs) and mobile jammers have been installed in a few passport offices to deter such activities.

ANNEXURE A

Pending in various Passport Offices as on 31.01.2006

Sl.. No	Name of Passport Office	Passport applications pending for more than 30 days	Out of these applications pending because of non-receipt of police verification report
1	2	3	4
1	Ahmedebad	16032	2468
2	Bangalore	31875	7148
3	Bareilly	11372	3032
4	Bhopal	15909	11779
5	Bhubaneshwar	11900	6082
6	Chandigarh	34614	14646
7	Chennai	43034	14300
8	Cochin	11148	972
9	Delhi	6369	1483
10	Ghaziabad	12717	3781
11	Guwahati	1392	842
12	Hyderabad	42995	15191
13	Jaipur	22450	14369
14	Jalandhar	18662	6848
15	Jammu	1985	1131
16	Kolkata	17981	12847
17	Kozhikode	21299	9779
18	Lucknow	28367	14996
19	Mumbai	11613	9758

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20 Nagpur   1813   582
21 Panaji   447   16
22 Patna   47830   32966
23 Pune   7098   5693
24 Ranchi   10145   9541
25 Srinagar  7630   6063
26 Surat   6813   3340
27 Thane   5730   4551
28 Trichy   34923   7848
29 Trivandrum  1198   156
30 Vishakhapatnam  8308   224062
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